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BAY MOVE HAILED BY CELEBREZZE

'It's About Time,' Story Says of Doctor's Arrest

Word of Dr. Sam Sheppard's arrest on a charge of murdering his wife was brought to the attention of Mayor Anthony J. Celebrezze and Police Chief Frank W. Story of Cleveland while they attended an affair in Hotel Hollenden for Chicago's mayor and aldermen.

"I am happy to see," Celebrezze said, "that the Bay Village officials finally have co-operated with the Cleveland police department."

"I feel the investigation is moving along now as it should have some time ago. I have no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Dr. Samuel Sheppard."

Arrest Called Overdue

A short statement on the latest development in the case was issued by Chief Story.

"It's about time," Story said, smiling all the while. "This was long overdue. This should have been done right after the murder was discovered."

Arrest of Dr. Sheppard for the bludgeoning murder of his wife, Marilyn, was "overdue," Cleveland Detective Inspector James E. McArthur said.

Reached at his home shortly before 11 p. m., McArthur told reporters he had received no official word about the arrest by Bay Village authorities.

Hears of Warrant on TV

"No, I have not," he replied when asked whether he had been notified of Dr. Sam's arrest. "I heard over television a little while ago that a warrant had been issued for his arrest. I also heard he was on his way to the yacht club for a ride in his boat."

When told the reports of the arrest were true and that Sheppard had been charged with first-degree murder and arraigned on that charge, McArthur repeated that he had "received no official word yet."

"All I know so far is what you tell me," he said while inquiring whether Dr. Sam was being held in Bay Village or was being taken to County Jail or to Central Police Station.

"Overdue," Says McArthur

"We'll probably get him down there later," he said.

"I think it has been overdue," McArthur said when asked whether he had anything to say about the arrest.

He would not comment further than that.

Mayor J. Spencer Houk of Bay Village would not comment. Dressed in gray, he was solemn and perspiring profusely from the strong lights used in the Council chamber by photographers.

Police Chief John P. Eaton also refused to comment.

Law Director Richard S. Weygandt told reporters he already had made all the comment he wished to.

Cullitan Has No Comment

"I haven't any comment," County Prosecutor Frank T. Cullitan, reached at a downtown lodge meeting, said. "That's their job out there (in Bay Village). There's nothing I can say about it."

"This is the first I have heard about it," Capt. David E. Kerr, head of the Cleveland police homicide detail, said when reached at his home. "I wasn't notified about it. I know nothing about it, and that makes it nice with me the way it is."

At the home of Dr. Richard A. Sheppard, father of Dr. Sam, a woman who answered the telephone interrupted a reporter to ask who was calling. Told it was a Plain Dealer reporter, she said, "No comment," and hung up.

When an attempt was made to call the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Reese, parents of the slain woman, reporters were told the telephone had been disconnected.